

Message Text

PAGE 01 TAIPEI 05196 140332Z

64

ACTION EA-09

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 OMB-01

IO-10 /067 W

----- 060104

R 140313Z AUG 75

FM AMEMBASSY TAIPEI

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6592

INFO AMEMBASSY TOKYO

AMCONSUL HONG KONG

USLO PEKING

C O N F I D E N T I A L TAIPEI 5196

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT, PINS, SHUM, TW

SUBJECT: ADDITIONAL COMMENTS ON THE 1975 COMMUTATION ACT

REF: TAIPEI 4479

1. ONE MONTH AFTER THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE 1975 COMMUTATION ACT, LOCAL REACTION TOWARDS IT REMAINS AT BEST MIXED. IN PREMIER CHIANG CHING-KUO'S DIARY KEPT DURING THE THIRTY-DAY MOURNING PERIOD FOLLOWING CHIANG KAI-SHEK'S DEMISE, THE PREMIER REFERS TO THE ACT AS "THE MOST IMPORTANT OFFICIAL BUSINESS I HAVE HANDLED DURING MY MOURNING PERIOD" AND SAYS THAT HE TOLD MINISTER OF JUSTICE WANG JEN-YUAN THAT "AS A MATTER OF PRINCIPLE, EVERYTHING SHOULD BE MADE AS GENEROUS AS POSSIBLE."

2. IT IS CURIOUS, THEREFORE, THAT TO DATE, ASIDE FROM YUAN CHIN-TAO (SEE REFTEL), THE NAMES OF VERY FEW OTHER POLITICAL PRISONERS WHO MAY HAVE BENEFITTED FROM THE COMMUTATION ACT HAVE SURFACED. IN ADDITION TO THOSE CONTAINED REFTEL, WE HAVE HEARD THAT THE FOLLOWING MAY HAVE HAD THEIR SENTENCES COMMUTED (BUT WERE NOT RELEASED): LIN SHUI-CHUAN (2651/3055/3123) SENTENCED IN 1967 TO 15
CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 TAIPEI 05196 140332Z

YEARS IN JAIL FOR "OVERTLY ACTING TO OVERTHROW THE GOVERNMENT"; HIS ASSOCIATES LU KUO-MIN (0712/0948/3046), HUANG HUA (7806/5478), LIN CHUNG-LI, AND LIU CHIA-CHIN (0491/0163/2953); AND SU TUNG-CHI (5685/2639/0796), A YUNLIN COUNTY

COUNCILMAN SENTENCED IN 1961 TO LIFE IMPRISONMENT FOR PLOTTING A COUP.

3. ALTHOUGH THE GROC HAS SAID IT DOES NOT PLAN TO RELEASE PUBLICLY ANY NAME LISTS (PURPORTEDLY BECAUSE IT WISHES TO PROTECT THE PRIVACY OF THOSE RELEASED), WE HOPE IN FUTURE CONVERSATIONS WITH INDEPENDENTS AND OTHERS CONCERNED TO LEARN THE IDENTITIES OF SOME OF THE OTHER POLITICAL PRISONERS COMMUTED OR RELEASED. HOWEVER, INFORMATION AVAILABLE TO US AT THIS TIME REMAINS TOO SCANTY TO MAKE A COMPLETE ANALYSIS OF WHAT CATEGORIES OF POLITICAL PRISONERS WERE BENEFITTED. WHILE SOME INDEPENDENTS APPARENTLY BELIEVE THAT THE GROC HAS BEEN MORE GENEROUS TO THOSE CONVICTED OF CRIMES RELATED TO THE TAIWAN INDEPENDENCE MOVEMENT THAN CRIMES INTERPRETED TO BE COMMUNIST-INSPIRED, MOST SEEM TO THINK THAT THE GOVERNMENT'S ACTION WILL HAVE RELATIVELY LITTLE EFFECT ON THE LOCAL SCENE.

4. EXCEPT FOR THOSE WHO HAVE A DIRECT INTEREST IN THE FATE OF POLITICAL PRISONERS, MOST PEOPLE SEEM RELUCTANT TO TALK AT ALL ABOUT THE POLITICAL IMPLICATIONS OF THE ACT. MANY, HOWEVER, HAVE EXPRESSED DOUBTS ABOUT THE WISDOM OF RELEASING THOSE CONVICTED OF CRIMINAL (AS OPPOSED TO POLITICAL) ACTS SINCE THEY MAY "REVERT TO OLD HABITS" AND "ENDANGER THE SOCIETY." IN THAT REGARD, IT SHOULD BE NOTED THAT THE AUGUST 4 LIEN HO PAO REPORTED THAT TWO EX-CONVICTS RELEASED UNDER THE ACT WERE RE-ARRESTED ON JULY 29 ON THE CHARGE OF STEALING A MOTORCYCLE AND BLACKMAILING THE OWNER. ALTHOUGH NO OTHER CRIMES INVOLVING THOSE RELEASED HAVE APPEARED IN THE PRESS, IT APPEARS THAT THE MAN IN THE STREET'S CONCERN CONTINUES TO FOCUS PRIMARILY ON THE DANGERS OF RELEASING CRIMINALS RATHER THAN ON ANY POLITICAL, COMMUNAL, OR "BENEVOLENT" ASPECTS OF THE ACT.

UNGER

CONFIDENTIAL

<< END OF DOCUMENT >>

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 26 AUG 1999
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PENAL REFORM, AMNESTY, PRISONERS RELEASE, PUBLIC ATTITUDES
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 14 AUG 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: GolinoFR
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975TAIPEI05196
Document Source: ADS
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: 11652 GDS
Errors: n/a
Film Number: D750280-0532
From: TAIPEI
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19750898/baaaadwt.tel
Line Count: 91
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, TEXT ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: GolinoFR
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 09 JUL 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <09 JUL 2003 by CunninFX>; APPROVED <10 JUL 2003 by GolinoFR>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
06 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: n/a
TAGS: PINT, PINS, SHUM, TW
To: STATE INFO TOKYO
HONG KONG
PEKING
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 06 JUL 2006